

CLEAN COPY OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS

1. A tool holding device comprising a first rail and a second rail vertically and horizontally offset from each other thereby forming an opening therebetween for receiving an elongate member in a generally vertical orientation and substantially horizontally disposed means for supporting a lower end of the elongate member when received between the rails.
2. A device according to claim 1 wherein the rails comprise generally parallel crossbars further characterized by generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.
3. A device according to claim 2 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in the crossbars.
4. A device according to claim 3 further characterized by a second depression formed along the opposed edges in the crossbars.
5. A device according to claim 4 wherein the depressions are formed in both of the opposed edges and are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.
6. A device according to claim 2 further comprising two end plates attached to side edges of the crossbars, whereby the end plates and the crossbars form a stable structure.
7. A device according to claim 6 wherein outward extents of the end plates define a footprint and wherein a vertical projection through a center of gravity of an elongate member inserted between the crossbars lies within the footprint.
8. A device according to claim 1 further comprising at least one elongate member inserted between the rails, the elongate member including a support for supporting an item thereon.
9. A device according to claim 8 further comprising a shelf disposed on the support.

10. A device according to claim 1 wherein the first rail and the second rail comprise a first hoop and a second hoop generally concentric therewith, further wherein the first hoop and the second hoop comprise generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.
11. A device according to claim 10 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in the hoops.
12. A device according to claim 11 further characterized by a second depression formed along the opposed edges in the hoops.
13. A device according to claim 12 wherein the depressions are formed in both of the opposed edges and are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.
14. A device according to claim 13 further comprising at least one leg attached to the hoops, thereby forming a stable structure.
15. A device according to claim 14 wherein an outward extent of the at least one leg defines a footprint, wherein a vertical projection through a center of gravity of an elongate member inserted between the hoops lies within the footprint.
16. A method for storing elongate members comprising the steps of:
 - providing a first rail and a second rail vertically and horizontally offset from each other thereby forming an opening therebetween for receiving an elongate member in a generally vertical orientation;
 - providing substantially horizontally disposed means for supporting a lower end of the elongate member when received between the rails; and
 - inserting the elongate member between the rails.
17. A method according to claim 16 wherein the rails comprise generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.

18. A method according to claim 17 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in the rails.
19. A method according to claim 18 further characterized by a second depression formed along the opposed edges in the rails.
20. A method according to claim 19 wherein the depressions are formed in both of the opposed edges and are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.
21. The device of claim 16 wherein the supporting means comprises a base plate.
22. The device of claim 1 wherein the supporting means comprises a base plate.
23. The device of claim 6 wherein the supporting means comprises a base plate attached to at least one of the end plates.
24. A tool holding device comprising a first rail and a second rail vertically and horizontally offset from each other thereby forming an opening therebetween for receiving an elongate member in a generally vertical orientation, said tool holding device lacking means for supporting a lower end of the elongate member when received between the rails.
25. A device according to claim 24 wherein the rails comprise generally parallel crossbars further characterized by generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.
26. A device according to claim 25 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in the crossbars.
27. A device according to claim 26 further characterized by a second depression formed along the opposed edges in the crossbars.

28. A device according to claim 27 wherein the depressions are formed in both of the opposed edges and are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.
29. A device according to claim 25 further comprising two end plates attached to side edges of the crossbars, whereby the end plates and the crossbars form a stable structure.
30. A device according to claim 29 wherein outward extents of the end plates define a footprint and wherein a vertical projection through a center of gravity of an elongate member inserted between the crossbars lies within the footprint.
31. A device according to claim 24 further comprising at least one elongate member inserted between the rails, the elongate member including a support for supporting an item thereon.
32. A device according to claim 31 further comprising a shelf disposed on the support.
33. A device according to claim 24 wherein the first rail and the second rail comprise a first hoop and a second hoop generally concentric therewith, further wherein the first hoop and the second hoop comprise generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.
34. A device according to claim 33 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in the hoops.
35. A device according to claim 34 further characterized by a second depression formed along the opposed edges in the hoops.
36. A device according to claim 35 wherein the depressions are formed in both of the opposed edges and are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.
37. A device according to claim 36 further comprising at least one leg attached to the hoops, thereby forming a stable structure.

38. A device according to claim 37 wherein an outward extent of the at least one leg defines a footprint, wherein a vertical projection through a center of gravity of an elongate member inserted between the hoops lies within the footprint.
39. A method for storing elongate members comprising the steps of:
- providing a first rail and a second rail vertically and horizontally offset from each other thereby forming an opening therebetween for receiving an elongate member in a generally vertical orientation without providing means for supporting a lower end of the elongate member when received between the rails; and
- inserting the elongate member between the rails.
40. A method according to claim 39 wherein the rails comprise generally opposed edges for contacting the elongate member when inserted therebetween.
41. A method according to claim 40 further characterized by at least one depression formed along the opposed edges in each of the rails.
42. A method according to claim 41 wherein the depressions formed along the opposed edges in each of the rails are generally aligned, thereby restricting movement of the elongate member when disposed therein.